

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 01470 301204Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1470

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR, US, CM

SUBJ: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

REF: YAOUNDE 1398

1. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS' TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND OTHER GURC INTERLOCUTORS LIKELY CENTER ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, CAMEROON'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON THROUGH A.I.D., WITH SOME DISCUSSION ALSO ON WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY COMMODITY TRADE. EMBASSY HEREWITH SUBMITS ITS IDEAS ON SUBJECTS LIKELY BE RAISED BY GURC OR USEFUL FOR SECRETARY TO RAISE, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL LINE OF QUESTIONING IN EVENT ENCOUNTER WITH LOCAL PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SOTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WILL LIKELY BE FOCUS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO. WE SUGGEST APPROACH SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN AHIDJO'S VIEWS ON AFRICANS' PERCEPTION OF THOSE PROBLEMS AND ROLE OF U.S. AS HE SEES IT, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT WE MIGHT BE DOING. IT MIGHT BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO TAKE OCCASION TO EXPLAIN WHAT U.S. POLICY RE SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF HAS BEEN TO DATE, IN ORDER TO CLARIFY COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS AND DISTORTIONS RE ARMS EMBARGO AND POSSIBILITY OF DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA (STATE 84081), AND EXPLAIN SUCCESSFUL USG INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO INITIATE NON-DISCRIMINATORY WAGE AND BENEFITS POLICY FOR BLACK WORKERS THERE.

3. DISCUSSION WITH AHIDJO MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE AT LEAST SOME GEN-
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PAGE 02 YAOUND 01470 301204Z

ERAL COVERAGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO LDC DEMANDS FOR NEW WORLD

ECONOMIC ORDER. OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO CAMEROON IS TRADE IN BASIC COMMODITIES, WITH PERCEIVED "CONSTANT DETERIORATION IN TERMS OF TRADE" AND NEED TO RELATE COMMODITY PRICES TO THOSE OF IMPORTED INDUSTRIAL GOODS (INDEXATION). GURC PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN COCOA AND COFFEE AND CONSIDERS U.S. PARTICIPATION IN COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ESSENTIAL. WHILE SHOWING SYMPATHETIC U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING WORLD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MIGHT USE DISCUSSION OF WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES TO PUT FORWARD GENERAL U.S. VIEWPOINT RE CONFRONTATION VS. COOPERATION AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LDC/NONALIGNED STEAMROLLER TACTICS. DISCUSSION EITHER OF GENERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS OR U.S.-CAMEROONIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT COULD GIVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OPENING FOR BROADCASTING SUBJECT OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

4. THERE ARE NOT TROUBLESOME BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN U.S. AND CAMEROON. WE EXPECT THAT ASSISTANCE THROUGH A.I.D. WILL BE PRIME FOCUS OF AHIDJO'S AND OTHERS' INTEREST IN BILATERAL MATTERS. IN THIS REGARD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHOULD BE PREPARED RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS U.S. POLICY, AS DICTATED BY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES. OF CONCENTRATING ON AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HELP TO RURAL POOR, AND CONSTRAINTS FOR PRESENT ON FINANCING OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS IN TRANSPORT SECTOR (SUCH AS PHASE III OF TRANSCAM RAILWAY AND DOUALA PORT EXPANSION). MIGHT BE USEFUL TO MENTION TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO OUR SEVERAL EVOLVING BILATERAL PROJECTS FOR NORTH CAMEROON IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. EFFORTS IN SAHEL.

5. BASED ON USIS' CONTINUING WORKING LEVEL CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL JOURNALISTS, FOLLOWING ARE KINDS AND CONTENT OF QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED ON BOTH GENERAL SUBJECTS (OTHER THAN SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES) AND U.S.-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR, IN EVENT OF ANY MEETING WITH THE PRESS:

(A) GENERAL:

A. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS INDICATED HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A "NEW RELATIONSHIP" WITH AFRICA. CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW THAT RELATIONSHIP IS ENVISIONED?

B. IN THE POST-VIETNAM PHASE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, WHAT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 YAOUND 01470 301204Z

LIKELY TO HAPPEN TO U.S.-AFRICAN RELATIONSHIPS?

C. IS THERE ANY PROSPECT OF HALTING THE APPARENT DOWNWARD DRIFT OF AMERICAN AID TO AFRICA?

D. IS THE NIXON DOCTRINE STILL OPERATIVE IN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION?

(2) U.S.-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS:

A. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CAMEROON'S POLICY OF "PLANNED LIBERALISM"
AND HOW DOES IT ACCORD WITH U.S. INVESTMENT POLICY?

B. HOW DOES THE U.S. VIEW ITS ROLE IN CAMEROON IN LIGHT OF CAM-
EROON'S ANNOUNCED POLICY OF "SELF-RELIANT DEVELOPMENT"?

C. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF AMERICAN PARTICIPA-
TION IN:

1. THE TRANS-CAM THIRD PHASE?
2. THE "GREEN REVOLUTION"?

D. HOW WILL THE LOME TREATY AFFECT U.S.-CAMEROONIAN TRADE WITH,
AND INVESTMENT IN, CAMEROON?

E. WHAT ARE THE MOST PROMISING FIELDS OF FUTURE U.S. TRADE WITH,
AND INVESTMENT IN, CAMEROON?

5. RE U.S. CAMEROON BILATERAL RELATIONS, POST INTENDS SUPPLEMENT
WHATEVER BRIEFING MATERIAL DEPARTMENT PREPARING WITH BRIEF,
POST-ORIGINATED SUMMARY MATERIAL ON AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS,
USIS ACTIVITIES, AND TRADE/INVESTMENT. WE WILL ARRANGE TO DE-
LIVER THIS MATERIAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT ONE OF HIS EARLIER
STOPS. MOORE

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